

# The Athenian Mercury.

Tuesday, January 15. 1695.

Quest. 1. **G**entlemen, It happened upon a time, I was at work in my Trade and Imployment: I was something *disturbed* in my mind; I Could not put forward my Business, for the oppression of my Spirits; I withdrew my self from it, intending to Compose my self in my Chamber: But going up the stairs, I was met with an Oppression and voice which repeated these words; (*Go call the World to Judgment*). I returned down the stairs with these thoughts in my self; Lord, must I a poor wretch carry this message? My reason went from me, I appearing to many as one distracted, for four minutes, or thereabouts; then I expressed words to the effect of my message, that I had receiv'd, not knowing what I did; but in two hours I was return'd to my self, and in my Imployment, as if the thing had never been; I followed my imploy as before, but I could never get it out of my mind: Nor never made it known to any one till now I send it to you. Your thoughts of it as you think fit.

Quest. 2. Six Months after this that I have written to you befell me, I was in my Employments at home and abroad, and I found my self more troubled then at other times: I feared the former state, I had been in, would come upon me: It was so very terrible: I kept at home what I could: I was in my Chamber: I was very much surprised: I was transported in my self, and so strangely harrastr in my mind; it is past Expression: I heard these words, feeling nothing, but feeling great Terror: [All the world will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.] I returned these words [They are the words of temptation; I will not worship.] I had much ado to keep me upon my feet: I was so harrastr that I seemed to be born from the Earth or Floor: I recovered my self and kept my standing. Your thoughts of this matter as you think fit.

Quest. 3. Before I was recovered of what was past in my Last, two minutes was not past before I found a wonderful Change wrought in me with terror and Astonishment: Me thought the Heavens opened and a glory shone round me filling the Room with shine, as the sun in its brightness; I heard these words;

*I am come down to settle the Kingdoms of the Earth, and to give them to him whose Right they are. I am God, I will not Lose my Glory.*

Athenians, I have sent you, what I write, for truth; tho they may seem insuareing words. I will give you the time; These words were given me in King Charles the Second's Reign some years before his death: I was 40 years of Age when this befell me: 7 years passed before I could think of it; 7 years before I could write it. I finding of you so fair in your Answers, thought good to Let these lye in your print, or with your Papers:

Ans. This poor man would have made a rare assistant to Mr. M. if he had but discover'd his mind while that Gentleman was living; for he seems to have much of the same Character, very honest, we would hope, and we are sure very Enthusiastical. However, we think, not so conceited of himself as people in those circumstances use to be, and very much in the right when he cry'd out, "must I a poor wretch carry this message? To give therefore our serious and charitable Judgment concerning the whole, we must conclude it either entirely the effect of a warm and disturbed Imagination, or perhaps something of the Devil in it besides, who as he is never idle, so he Fishes most in troubled waters, and prevails most where he finds not reason to

oppose him. This our opinion we found upon the manner of the whole relation, as well as the substance of it and other circumstances. For the manner, there appear evident signs of a *Deliquium*, or short distraction through the whole, which often come by fits, while a man may be rational enough at other times and on other occasions.

*But if you hit the Cause that burts his Brain,  
Then his Teeth gnash, he raves, he shakes his Chain,  
His Eyeballs roll, and he is mad again.*

As a poor Gentleman writes, who understood madness as well as any Poet of us all.

Of this, we say, there are several Evidences in the whole account: As; 1st, That oppression upon his Spirits, which seems no better nor worse than "*Wind in Hypochondria pent*", which struggled a while before it could force its way upwards. Then 2dly, 'Tis being plainly besides himself, doing and speaking he knew not what, to the company that were with him, as he himself confesses. Whereas, certainly the prophets of old were conscious of their own messages, and knew very well what they said and did, otherwise that censure had been just of all of 'em which the Jews blasphemously apply'd to our Saviour, "He hath a Devil, and is mad." 3dly, These Transports, Terrors, and agonies which he speaks of, look not so much like the motion of God's Spirit as the inspiration of the *Delphian Priestesses*, who shook and stared and foam'd when they deliver'd their Oracles, nor could it be all practice and dissimulation, for the Temple it self shook with them. But what Spirit was at the bottom is easy to determin; The same which troubled Saul, and made him break out into Frenzy and madness. Again 2dly, The substance of these fancy'd Revelations and matter of 'em, are sufficient to satisfy the person who is sick of that disease, that they are not Divine. The 1st of 'em is contrary to God's word, the 2d plainly Diabolical. The 3d. False in fact; therefore all of 'em rather to be dreaded than hearken'd to, or believ'd. For the 1st. ["Go call the world to Judgment:"] We are to expect, or believe no such warning, as having sufficient already; nay, as being contrary to the express words of our Saviour, who is himself the Judge, who tells us, "Many shall come in my name, and shall deceive many. But when they shall say, Loe here is Christ, or loe there, believe them not. For, as the Lightning shineth out of the East, and appeareth unto the West, so shall the coming of the Son of man be. For, as a snare shall that day come on all them that dwell on the Earth. For the 2d, There will be no question but 'twas Diabolical, the Enemy working upon the disturbed fancy of this poor man, and filling his imagination with the same words with which he tempted our Saviour. But here, it seems, he was affected just as he had been in the former Vision, troubled, and harrastr, and fear'd [the former state was coming upon him.] For the 3d Vision, 'tis confuted; as God's Spirit tells us the false prophets shou'd be, by the East not coming to pass, tho the seducer apes the sacred stile here pretty towardsly: [I am come down to settle the Kingdoms of the world.] 'Tis spoke of as already actually done, at least a doing. And this was in King Charles's time, and many years before his Death, above twenty years since. But this still so far from being done, this settlement so far from being made, that one would rather think [the Devil himself was come down, having great wrath] by all those Assassinations, Poisonings, Treasons, Murders, Wars, and Desolations that are since made, and are still making amongst all mankind:

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This the poor man says, 'twas seven years before he could think, and seven more before he could write it. But to what purpose was it then reveal'd so long before, the case being vastly different from Nebuchadnezzar's dream, which was first reveal'd to him, and then to others. It's true, in this last Vision, the Enemy appear'd more like an *Angel of Light*, than in the former. He rais'd all his *machines* in the afflicted person's *Brain*, and turn'd out the best *popper-flow* he could afford, with *Sun-shine*, and *Glories*, but this is a *stale Trick*, he did the same of old for his Friend *Apolonius*, and 'tis no more than some of his acquaintance can do every Evening, with *Great Candles*, and *Rozin*. Wee'd advise you therefore, as you 've still conceal'd these Fancies, so, if you've any more, still to do so. To take some wise *Physician's* advice, for the purging your *disorder'd Head and Body*; and besides all this, to *Fast* and *Pray*, that you mayn't enter into *Temptation*, or else be *deliver'd* from it. These being exactly the same Fancies with which the Devil fill'd the Heads of our *Embassadors* in the last age, and the *Anabaptists* in *Germany* not many years before, who ran about all *Europe* like *distracted persons*, some of 'em stark naked, telling the world they were sent from God to warn 'em to repent, for the day of Judgment was at hand; while our more hair-brain'd prophets in *England* appointed the very time, for which *Doomsday* Sedgwick was so famous, and others of 'em had feign'd the very night, sitting up to wait for it, and crying out blasphemously; "Behold he comes in the *Clouds*; when 'twas nothing but a flock of their *Kindeed-wild-geese* flying over them.

Quest. 4. Whether those who dissent from a pure Church are guilty of Schism?

Ans. Yes, Schism being a causeless separation.

Quest. 5. If the Ark could contain all sorts of beasts and fowls with sufficient provision for them for a year, besides Noah and his family?

Ans. See Bishop Wilkin's account on't, who computes every thing.

Quest. 6. I have a mighty inclination to Poetry, and believe I have not miss'd of all the necessary endowments; Now if I were sure of succeeding I'd never scruple any pains, yet being uncertain what is requisite in a Poet, and not doubting but a Man may be sensible of his own good qualities, I desire the favour of you to give me a short account of the qualities of a good Poet.

Ans. He must have an extraordinary Genius, an exact, fruitful, penetrating and universal wit; a pure, just, and solid understanding, with a neat and agreeable imagination.

### Advertisement.

THE Fifteenth Volume of the *Athenian Mercury* is now published, Dedicated to the *Pindarick Lady*, resolving all the most nice and curious Questions proposed by Ladies and Gentlemen, relating to *Divinity*, *Philosophy*, *Love*, *Marriage*, *History*, *Physick*, *Law*, *Mathematics*, *Trade*, &c. from Tuesday September the 4th to Saturday Decemb. the 15th, 1694. This 15th Volume, with the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th. compleat the whole set for the Years 1693 and 1694. Printed for John Dunton at the *Raven* in *Jewen Street*, where is to be had compleat sets of the *Athenian Mercury*, each Set containing the History of the *Athenian Society*, 15 Volumes of the *Athenian Mercury*, and five Supplements, &c. as also any single Volumes and *Mercurys* to compleat Sets, the price of each single Volume is 2s. and 6d.

A Regulation for *Seamen*, wherein a method is humbly proposed, whereby their *Majesties Fleet* may at all times be speedily and effectually Mann'd, and the *Merchants* be more readily and cheaper serv'd, without having their Men at any time press'd or taken away; Setting forth the great advantages that will accrue thereby to the King, Merchant, and Subject in general, whereby these *Islands* will be more secure and happy, the King's Revenue considerably be eas'd, Trade in general be quicken'd and encourag'd, and every individual subject receive benefit thereby, in lessening the Price of all Naval Commodities; Printed, and are to be Sold by John Whitlock near *Stationers-Hall*. Price 1s.

SOME observations upon the keeping the 30th of Jan. and 29th of May; together with a just and sober vindication of the said observations. Gal. 4. 10. 11. Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain. By J. G. G. Printed and are to be Sold by R. Baldwin at the *Oxford-Arms*, in *Warwick-Lane*.

\* \* \* Whereas there were Proposals for Printing Mr. Baxter's Paraphrase on the New Testament, with Notes Doctrinal and Practical; fitted for Families; as also for the Younger and Poorer sort of Ministers. By the late Learned and Pious Mr. Richard Baxter. These are to desire those who paid in their first payment, to send in their second to the Undertakers, Tho. Parkhurst at the lower End of *Cheapside*; Sam. Sprint at the *Bell* in *Little Britain*; John Taylor, John Wyar in *St. Pauls Church-Yard*. Any others may there have the said book for 6s. in Quires; seven, paying for six. 'Twill be dearer two months hence.

\* \* \* Walter Lloyd at the ancient Fowler in *Tower-street*, *London*, sells the finest, strongest (glaz'd or not glaz'd) Gun-Powder, which by the Experience of several Persons of Quality and others, hath considerably out-done any other Gun-Powder yet made. The said strong Gun-Powder, and all other sorts of Gun-Powder, is sold by him at very reasonable Rates.

\* \* \* A Writing-School to be let; enquire at Mr. Gilbert Williams at the *Noahs-Ark* in *New Thames-Street*, *Southwark*; or at the *Blew-paper-Warehouse* in *Aldermanbury*, *London*.

Whereas Mistris Innes at the *Indian house* in *Saffolk-street*, in her late proposals dated the 2d. of October last, for Sale of fine *Indian-Goods*, or ready money, to the value of 2600l. did give out that the Tickets would be drawn on the 9th Day of this Instant January, but the books not being full, was Resolv'd to pay back what money was Received, yet at the desire of several people of quality, and others who are most concerned, and willing the said Sale should be drawn full, she has given to the 20th of March next for selling the rest of the Tickets, and if the books be not then full the money shall be immediately paid back, or any other method taken that may give best satisfaction: The Tickets are to be Sold at 10s. Each, the highest Lot 300l. the lowest 5l. and only 26 blanks to a benefit, rebating 10 per cent. Ready money if the Goods is not liked. Tickets are to be had at Mr. John Pearson's at the *Unicorn*, at Mr. John Campbells and partner at the 3 *Crowns* in the *Strand*, *Goldsmiths*, at Mr. Henry Hankies at the *Ring* and *Ball* in *Fenchurch-street*, *Goldsmith*, at Mr. Lloyds *Coffee-house* in *Lumbar-d-street*, and at the said *Indian-house*.